

Description of the Photoplay of Faust.

by

Frederick A. Tedd.

Faust, A German philosopher, after a life of meditation, wearies at the emptiness of human knowledge and his own ability to unravel the mysteries of Nature. He summons to his aid the Spirit of Evil, who appears to him under the form of Mephistopheles and to whom he signs in his own blood, his soul. Through the supernatural power of Mephistopheles Faust is restored to youth, possessing personal beauty and luxurious garb. Then, in a vision, Marguerite, the village maid noted for her loveliness, who resides with her mother but who has been left in the care of Dame Martha by her soldier brother, Valentine, until after the wars are over, is revealed to Faust. This Dame Martha is a worthy but not a very vigilant personage. At first, Marguerite rejects the stranger's advances; but through the intervention of Mephistopheles, he urges his suit and her resistance is overcome and she innocently kills her mother in order that Faust may be with her. Valentine, returning from the wars, learns what has occurred and challenges his sister's betrayer but through the intervention of Mephistopheles, he is killed in the duel. Mephistopheles and Faust ride away to Brocken Mountain where Mephistopheles endeavoring to make Faust forget Marguerite exhibits his powers in Witchcraft. Marguerite, horror-stricken at the calamity of which she is the cause, gives way to despair. Her reason becomes affected and in a frenzy she kills her infant for which she is thrown into prison. Assisted by Mephistopheles, Faust returns and gains access to her cell, he and Mephistopheles eagerly urge her to escape but Marguerite in whom holier feelings have gained the ascendant, spurns their offer of aid and expires. Mephistopheles is triumphant in his apparent success to destroy a human soul when the gates of Heaven open and angels descend proclaiming that there is a pardon for the repentant sinner; and the Evil One foiled and overcome crouches in terror as the spirit of Marguerite is borne to heaven by the ministering angels.

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